Curriculum Support

CURRICULUM SUPPORT BRANCH
ROLES, GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
1988–89

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Alberta
EDUCATION

Key Contacts

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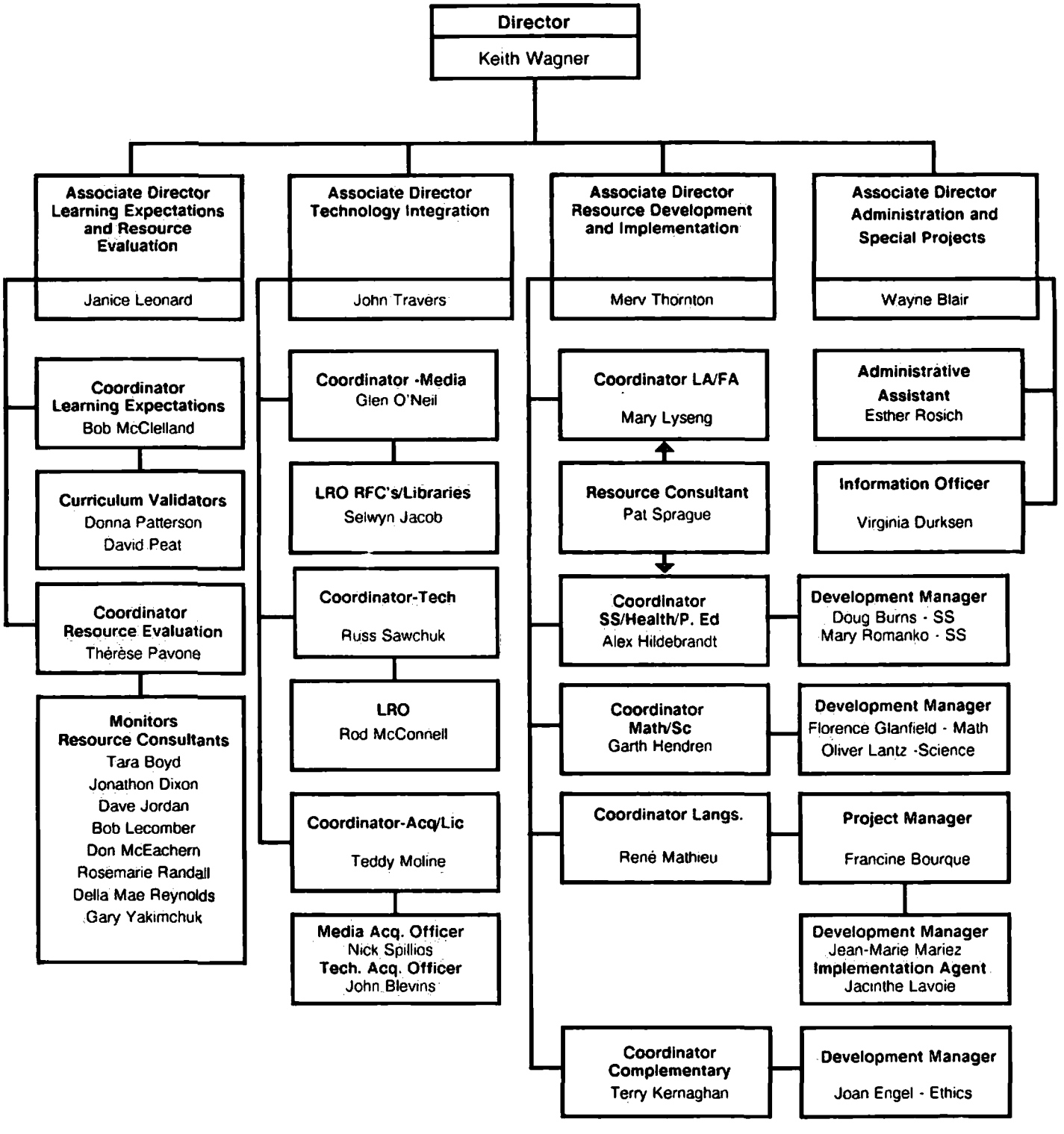

I. MISSION OF THE CURRICULUM SUPPORT BRANCH

To ensure the best possible education for Alberta students by providing leadership and direction in the validation of curricular programs and in the design, development, acquisition, and implementation of integrated learning and teaching resources.

II. THE SUPPORTING ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM SUPPORT BRANCH

1. We *support* curriculum design by using principles of child development to validate new and revised courses and programs of study.
2. We *support* the identification of appropriate student learning resources by:
   - establishing criteria for instructional design and tolerance and understanding;
   - validating learning resources according to these criteria;
   - authorizing "recommended" and "supplementary" resources.
3. We develop materials that *support* the teaching function (e.g., Teacher Resource Manuals, monographs).
4. We acquire provincial licences for media resources that *support* student learning.
5. We provide inservice *support* through multimedia inservice packages.
6. We *support* the integration of new technologies into curricula.

III. SUPPORT DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THE CURRICULUM SUPPORT BRANCH

The development of curriculum support documents is a process that will continue to rely on feedback from the users of these materials. Here are examples of the documents we produce, and the guidelines that we currently follow:

1. Teacher Resource Manual

A teacher resource manual is designed to help teachers implement a course or program of studies (e.g., Junior High School Mathematics). These manuals contain some or all of the following information:

- effective teaching strategies and skills
- sample unit and lesson plans
- student evaluation
- annotated bibliographies of
  - student learning resources
  - professional resources
- the application of current instructional theory to the course or program (e.g., learning styles)
- program planning
- facilities and equipment

2. Monograph

A monograph is a teacher support document designed to provide in-depth information to assist curriculum developers or to help teachers implement a specific aspect of a course or a program of studies. Example documents are:

- *Students' Thinking: Developmental Framework: Cognitive Domain*
- *Students' Interactions: Social Sphere*
- *Catalogue of Essential Concepts, Skills, and Attitudes (Grade 12)*

3. Position Paper

A position paper is designed to communicate a specific direction that the Curriculum Support Branch advocates. Some position papers request reaction from education stakeholders and others guide changes in the Alberta education system. Example documents are:

- *Visions 2000: A Vision of Educational Technology in Alberta by the Year 2000*
- *A Strategic Plan for Microcomputers in Schools*
- *Focus on Learning*

Position papers often contribute to subsequent policy development

4. Workshop Leader's Guide

A workshop leader's guide is designed to support educators who conduct inservices for groups of teachers with respect to a program of studies or part of a program of studies. These guides contain some or all of the following information:

- implementation strategies
- learning resources
- the "how" or "why" of programs or policies
- presentation suggestions
- minimum skill lists and goals
- pre–requisite requirements

An example is *The Writing Process Using the Word Processor: Workshop Leader's Manual.*

5. Learning Resource Listing

A learning resource listing is an annotated listing of learning resources recommended for use in Alberta schools. Examples are:

- *MECC Reviewers' Choices*
- *Computer Courseware Evaluations*

6. Workshop Leader's Implementation Packages

These packages contain various elements, depending on the purpose of the workshop and the support materials available for the curriculum. Workshop support materials are not developed for every program or course of studies, but are designed to assist the implementation of programs that introduce extensive changes in methodology or content. The packages may include some or all of the following:

- Program of Studies
- Teacher Resource Manual
- Monographs
- Charts, diagrams
- Transparencies
- Inservice video
- Workshop Leader's Guides

IV. CURRICULUM PUBLICATIONS/PRODUCTIONS (1988)

- **Elementary**
  - *Child Abuse Prevention Optional Unit* – Elementary Health
  - *Cree Language Implementation Guide* – ECS – Grade 9
  - *Elementary Art Inservice Slides*
  - *Encounters Video* – Elementary Art
  - *Encounters Video Guide* – Elementary Art
  - *Health Audiotapes* – French; Grades 1 – 3
- **Junior High**
  - *Cree Language Implementation Guide* – Junior High
  - *Drama Teacher Resource Manual* – Junior High
  - *English as a Second Language Guidelines* – Junior High
  - *Ethics Teacher Resource Manual* – Junior High
  - *Mathematics Teacher Resource Manual* – Junior High
- **Senior High**
  - *CALM 20 Implementation Manual*
  - *CALM 20 Teacher Resource Manual* – (Core Program)
  - *CALM 20 Teacher Resource Manual* (Optional Program)
  - *Social Studies 10/13 Teacher Resource Manual*
  - *Droit 20–30 Guide Pédagogique* (Law Teacher Resource Manual)
  - *Droit 20–30 Léxique* (French-English List of Terms for Law)
  - *German Around the Corner*
  - *Le Conditionnement Physique* (Fitness Dimension)
  - *Mathématiques Secondaire 7–12 Léxique* (French–English List of Terms for Math)
  - *Ukrainian Classical Literature Videotape*

- **General Topics**
  - *Copyright Policy and Procedures Statement* (for Departmental use only)
  - *Students' Physical Growth: Developmental Framework Physical Dimension* (monograph)
  - *Students' Interactions: Developmental Framework: The Social Sphere* (monograph)
  - *Writing Process Using the Word Processor: Workshop Leader's Manual*
  - *A Plan for the Future Direction of Regional Film Centres in Alberta* (position paper)

V. LICENCES/ACQUISITIONS

- MECC courseware – basic licence
- Mousewrite – provincial licence
- Appleworks – subsidized bulk purchase
- Distance Education (licences and acquisitions) :
  - Software: 23 packages;
  - Video (all provincially licenced):
    15 titles (in Math, Physics, Language Arts, Accounting, Ethics, Social Studies)
- Coacquisition of video resources (with ACCESS and Regional and Urban Resource Centres) - approximately 70 videos selected for acquisition.
- Acquisition of Calgary Resource Lists of print and non-print resources for school libraries.

VI. CURRICULUM SUPPORT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS FOR 1988–89

1. Learning Expectations and Resource Evaluation Unit (LERE)

• Production of ACCESS video on the *Cognitive Development of Students* to be completed:	March 1989
• Publication of thinking skills documents: – *Thinking Skills*: A Position Statement – *Strategies for Teachers*:	 March 1989 May 1989
• Establishment of validation criteria for Programs of Studies, Teacher Resource Manuals, etc., based on development framework:	March 1989
• *Program Continuity Teacher Strategies* document, Level 1:	June 1989
• *Computer Courseware Evaluations (January 1988 – December 1988)* catalogue (Volume 8):	March 1989
• Software evaluation for the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) database:	Ongoing
• Development of Learning Resources Database (tracking learning resources through acquisition or development, evaluation, authorization) – planning: – data entry: – operation in CSB (extension to other branches planned for future):	 October /88 – January /89 February - May 1989 Summer 1989
• Evaluation of student learning resources, as required, for instructional design and tolerance and understanding:	Ongoing
• Training and inservice for Alberta Education branches and school systems: – orientation to resource evaluation procedures – indepth training of analysts.	 Ongoing
• Computer courseware presentations and viewing rooms at conferences, teachers' conventions, and specialists councils, etc.	Ongoing

2. Resource Development and Implementation Unit (RDI)

• Field Study to Determine Teacher and Student Needs	August 1989
• Agriculture	
– *Agriculture Teacher Resource Manual* – Junior High (with Curriculum Design):	January 1989
• Ethics (Grade 8)	
– *Ethics Teacher Resource Manual* *"Messages in Media"* *"Religion and Values"* *"Social Responsibility"*	March 1989
– *Ethics Student Learning Packages* (Distance Education):	March 1989
– *Ethics Videotapes*	March 1989
• Fine Arts	
– *Elementary Art Teacher Resource Manual* (French):	March 1989
– *Art 11-21-31 Student Learning Packages* (Distance Education):	March 1989
– *Native Imagery in Art* Video (ECS – Grade 6):	March 1989
– *Art Resource Kit* – Senior High (Distance Education):	March 1989
– *Drama Teacher Resource Manual (Senior High)*:	February 1989
– *Secondary Drama Workshop Leader's Implementation Package*:	March 1989
– *Music Curriculum Guide* (ECS – Grade 6):	February 1989
– *Music Instructional tapes for students* (Junior High):	March 1989
– *Ukrainian Music Teacher Resource Manual* (Grades 1-3):	June 1989
– *Ukrainian Music Teacher Resource Manual* (Grades 4-6):	June 1989
• Language Arts	
– *Diversity in Communication Video Series* (Elementary):	June 1989
– *Diversity in Communication Resource Manual* for videos (Elementary):	June 1989
• Languages Other than English	
– *Communicative Approach to Second Languages Teaching Monograph* (Grades 4–12):	June 1989
– *Student Evaluation in Immersion and First Languages Monograph* (ECS – Grade 12):	June 1989
– *Student Evaluation in Second Languages Monograph* (Grades 4–12):	June 1989
– *Sociocultural Values Monograph* (ECS – Grade 12):	June 1989
– *French Language Arts* audiotapes (Elementary):	March 1989
– *French Language Arts* Video Inservice (Secondary):	June 1989
– *Teacher's Utilization Guide* to accompany French Language Arts Video (French):	June 1989

– *Ukrainian Language Arts Teacher Resource Manual* (Grades 1-6):	March 1989
– *Ukrainian Language Arts audiotapes*:	March 1989
– *German Ballads in the German Language Classroom*:	March 1989
– *French Language Arts Teacher Resource Manual* (Grades 7-12): Oral Comprehension Written Comprehension Oral and Written Production	June 1989
– *Direct Contacts with Germany from a Distance and at Home*	March 1989
• Translations (by subject)	
– *Elementary Art Teacher Resource Manual* (French):	March 1989
– *Social Studies 20–23 Teacher Resource Manual and Implementation Package* (French):	June 1989
• Mathematics	
– *Mathematics 10–13–14 Teacher Resource Manual*:	June 1989
– *Mathematics Statistics Monograph* (Distance Education):	March 1989
• Native Education	
– *Native Imagery in Art* – videotapes	March 1989
• Physical Education	
– *Secondary Physical Education (Handicapped Students)* – inservice video and accompanying manual:	January 1989
• Science	
– *Science Teacher Resource Manual* – Junior High (with Curriculum Design):	June 1989
– *Science Inservice Video* and accompanying manual – Junior High:	April 1989
– *Science 14-24 Student Learning Packages* (Distance Education):	March 1989
– *Science 14–24 Teacher Resource Manual*:	June 1989
– *Science 14–24 Workshop Leader's Implementation Package*:	June 1989
– *Science, Technology and Society* (monograph):	March 1989
• Social Studies	
– *Social Studies Teacher Resource Manual* (Grades 1–3):	February 1989
– *Social Studies Teacher Resource Manual* (Grades 4–6):	June 1989
– *Social Studies 20–23 Teacher Resource Manual*:	June 1989
– *Social Studies 10–13; 20–23 Facilitator's Manual* (Distance Education):	March 1989
• Work Experience	
– *Work Experience Education Manual*	March 1989

3. Technology Integration Unit

3.1 Media Section

• ACCESS Network	
– Monthly project tracking	Ongoing
– Distance Learning Video and Brochure	February 1989

3.2 Technology Integration Section

• Provincial Technology Integration Plan:	March 1989
• Digitized classroom project (two-year pilot):	1988–1989
• Thinking Skills Information Technologies Design Document:	March 31, 1989
• Software Licensing	
– word processing software for IBM, MacIntosh, Apple IIGs:	March 1989
• *Developing Students' Abilities to Use Telecommunications Devices* (position paper):	March 1989
• Development of Math 30 Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) materials (Distance Education):	March 1989

3.3 Licences/Acquisitions Section

• Provide consultation regarding copyright concerns for the Student Programs and Evaluation Division:	Ongoing
• Coordinate the cost-effective expenditure of equity funds for the provincial licensing of video and computer courseware resources to support distance learning packages:	Ongoing
• Provide school libraries with ongoing support e.g., selection aids such as Core Resources:	Ongoing
• Survey on automation in Alberta Libraries:	March 1989
• Development of a monograph for teachers on teaching information strategies in the school library:	March 1989